

THERAPEUTIC HEAT—Sidney Licht, M.D., Honorary Member, British Association of Physical Medicine, Danish Society of Physical Medicine, and the French National Society of Physical Medicine. Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, 1958. 360 Fountain St., New Haven, Conn. 466 pages, \$12.00.

This book is Volume II of a series of books to constitute a Physical Medicine Library. The editor has gathered together under one cover almost all that is known of the medical therapeutics of heat. The subject is covered under Physics, Thermometry, Physiological Responses, History, General Principles, etc. The uses of heat in various clinical disorders are then described, giving their rationale and application. Ultrasound therapy is included in this book, since one of its physiologic effects is supposed to be heating. According to the publisher, "this book is designed to help practitioners use heat more intelligently in relieving those complaints of their patients likely to respond to therapeutic heat." Actually, it is too technical for the average practitioner. It is a must in the library of everyone working in physical medicine and also useful as a reference book in medical libraries. The editor is to be complimented for having accumulated all this information together in one excellent reference text.

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THE FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE DIENCEPHALON—W. R. Hess, M.D., Professor of Physiology, Emeritus, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. Edited by John R. Hughes, M.A. Grune & Stratton, 1957, New York, London. 180 pages, \$7.00.

This English translation of the work of the Swiss neurophysiologist on the diencephalon is a very creditable job for the editor. It comprises three parts, dealing with autonomic responses, motor responses, and methods. An atlas of points in the diencephalon from which various responses may be elicited by electrical stimulation, with the animal, a cat, free to move about, is presented in great detail. The point is made that responses from the diencephalon are of complex nature. Verification of the stimulation experiments is sought from electrolytically produced lesions made with the same electrodes in place. This is a reference book for the neurophysiologist, and as such is of great value.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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AN ATLAS OF REGIONAL DERMATOLOGY—G. H. Percival, M.D., Ph.D., D.P.H., Grant Professor of Dermatology, University of Edinburgh; Physician to the Skin Department Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and T. C. Dodds, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.B.P., R.F.P.S., Laboratory Supervisor, Department of Pathology, University of Edinburgh; Head of Photomicrography Unit at Department of Pathology, University of Edinburgh. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Mount Royal and Guilford Avenues, Baltimore 2, Maryland. 264 pages, \$19.00.

Except for a one page preface and the index, this book consists entirely of reproductions in color of photographs of skin diseases. There are 475 pictures on 256 pages. Each picture has a title in bold print beneath it. In addition, almost all of them have from one to five or six lines of comment designed to call attention to important features which the photograph demonstrates. These notes add much to the value of the book as an aid in the diagnosis of diseases of the skin.

The atlas presents representative examples of the "common and less rare" cutaneous disorders, as far as possible in their early developing and fully developed stages. The diseases represented are grouped according to the regions of the body most characteristically involved. There are four regional groupings: Head and Neck, Hands and Arms, Feet and Legs and Trunk and Generalized Eruptions. The authors recognize that most skin diseases may affect any part of

the body and that this regional arrangement involves some duplication. The index enables one to quickly refer to all of the illustrations of a given skin disease even though they may be distributed in different parts of the book. Frequently throughout the book diseases which have morphologically similar lesions are grouped together so that one can compare and contrast, and in so doing note minor but important points of difference. Thus, lichen planus, papulosquamous syphilide, psoriasis and pityriasis rosea are seen on successive pages.

The terminology used to designate some of the diseases portrayed is different than that with which many of us here are familiar. The name infective eczema, for example, is used to cover eczematous eruptions commonly described by American dermatologists under the headings of seborrheic eczema, nummular eczema or infectious eczematoid dermatitis.

The color reproductions are for the most part good and some are excellent. In many, fine detail is not well portrayed.

I believe this atlas will be helpful to most physicians having an interest in skin diseases. Used along with one or more of the standard text books on dermatology it should be of real value to students both in undergraduate and graduate training. Dermatologists will enjoy looking at the pictures and will undoubtedly pick up worthwhile points of differential diagnosis from them and their explanatory notes.

HERMAN V. ALLINGTON, M.D.

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A TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY—Israel S. Wechsler, M.D. Consulting Neurologist, The Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York. Eighth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1958. 782 pages, \$11.00.

The eighth edition of this standard textbook of Neurology appears just thirty years after the first. It remains one of the most useful books on Neurology for the general practitioner and medical student. The revision has been adequately complete, although one might lament the rather casual treatment of electroencephalography. The approach is that of the clinical neurologist, which has many advantages for those relatively uninitiate in the field. Just as a 1927 motor car cannot be made into a 1958 model by the addition of dual headlights, so this text cannot be considered entirely adequate as a reference work of recent advances in the specialty. For those who want a sound clinical treatment of Neurology the book can be highly recommended.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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NEURITIS, SENSORY NEURITIS, NEURALGIA—Robert Wartenberg, M.D., Clinical Professor of Neurology, University of California Medical School, 1953. Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 444 pages, \$8.50.

It would be hard to find anyone to disagree with the premise that the majority of cases of multiple neuritis are difficult to classify etiologically, and this is the main fact brought out by this posthumous publication of a renowned neurologist who has given us many more worthy books. The volume consists in essence of a series of case histories from the author's files presenting an infinite variety of affections of the peripheral nerves. No clear picture is gained of the relationship of these cases to a definite etiological agent, although voluminous references to the literature regarding similar cases is provided. The one thing to be gained by the practitioner of medicine from reading this book is a realization that it is not possible even for the expert to assign a cause to many cases of peripheral neuritis.

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